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of their collections our Museum has forever lost Turner's "Slave Ship," and has never as yet acquired Church's "Heart of the Andes."

R. W. DE F.

THE WARD COLLECTION OF ANCIENT GREEK COINS

HITHERTO in our Metropolitan Museum the numerous coinages of Hellas and of her widespread flourishing colonies have been represented largely, if not wholly by the Ptolemaic series. These special issues of the long line of the Lagidai kings of Egypt, while possessing undoubtedly a great interest in the eyes of the professed numismatist, as was shown in the preceding Bulletin, can in not the slightest degree be considered typical. For the date of their first mintage (B. C. 305) nearly coincides with the commencement of the period of decline in coin art, thus precluding all artistic excellence; while the purposely slight alteration in their usual type means a complete absence of variety, commonly one of the most pleasing features of Greek coins. Can it then be considered strange if the large preponderance of these inartistic and somewhat monotonous pieces in the Metropolitan cases has made our collection a grievous disappointment to the student possessed of more or less knowledge which he would strengthen and vivify; and has conveyed to the casual observer an entirely inadequate impression of the rich beauty and charm of this genuine and (as we collectors claim) important branch of ancient art.

Now, however, an acquisition of the highest importance, from the standpoint of Greek numismatics, has worked a beneficent change, and the purchase and presentation by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan of the justly celebrated Ward collection has, at one bound as it were, given to the Museum a distinct value and importance for all American collectors. Indeed this addition is for New York coin lovers what the recent sale of the well-known Greenwell-Virzi-Warren collection to the Museum of Fine Arts has been for Bostonians; although undoubtedly in scope and character the two English cabinets show a wide divergence, and are hardly capable of comparison.

Mr. John Ward belongs to the number of those cultivated, widely traveled Englishmen whose whole-hearted devotion of their

leisure at home and abroad to some favorite pursuit, while affording the enthusiasts themselves an ever fresh interest and enjoyment in life, often incidentally produces a valuable addition to the sum of the world's knowledge in many a new or well-worn direction.

His good fortune, in being the personal friend of those past masters of the science, Dr. Head, Percy Gardner, Arthur J. Evans, and G. F. Hill, whose writings have done so much to stimulate and raise to its proper height the study of Greek coins, has given his collecting spirit unusual freedom of action, while he has conscientiously availed himself of every opportunity thus afforded. The result of his pleasant toil is shown here in about a thousand pieces, all possessing real interest and many displaying the finest characteristics of the Greek issues, which, one need hardly add form the most varied and artistic of all the world's countless coinages. This collection enjoys one great advantage over all other collections which it has ever been possible to purchase, that of having a scientific, and, at the same time, popular catalogue already prepared. This work was done, with his usual accuracy and thoroughness, by Mr. Hill of the British Museum, whose books on this special subject have been of such invaluable assistance to all true collectors, and the importance of such a complete record will be appreciated by all who would really enter upon a careful study of these coins.

One may say that in selecting his coins Mr. Ward has favored no one series to the exclusion of others perhaps equally important, and thus the comprehensiveness of the collection is one of its marked features. Following the regular numismatic order we may begin by examining the usual examples of the Greek colonies in Spain and Gaul; may continue with a study of the beautiful series of Magna Graecia and Sicily—in Sicilian issues, especially those of Syracuse, this cabinet is most pleasingly strong and varied—and may then complete our investigation with specimens of Greece proper, Crete and Asia Minor, thus reaching the North African coast lands, opposite our starting point. In such a wide range there are to be found many coins of the highest rarity (some being unique), which will appeal principally to the scientific student; many of a pure artistic beauty, which will bring longing to the heart of

the art lover; and not a few of those which, offering the rare combination of both these most desirable qualities, are wont to excite in auction rooms the keenest emulation, and bring a correspondingly tranquil joy to the heart of the fortunate possessor.

In this last connection sad experience prompts us most feelingly to congratulate our Museum on having secured such a collection at the present time. All collectors of this branch are finding to their sorrow that the number of really fine Greek coins attainable is, from their gradual, permanent absorption into museums here and abroad, becoming diminished by degrees; while the infrequency of important "finds" is such that the additions from this source, as the years roll on, by no means keep pace with the losses.

Several years ago Mr. Ward published his "Greek Coins and their Parent Cities," in which Mr. Hill's catalogue with its beautifully executed plates is supplemented by a commentary, the work of the owner himself. In this he describes an imaginary journey (based upon his own travels at various periods), in the geographical order peculiar to numismatists, making frequent reference to his examples of the coinage of each city or country. This part of the work is also profusely illustrated with numerous and varied reproductions—landscapes, temples, paintings, statues and inscriptions, as well as many original sketches. In spite, however, of the genuine importance of such a treatise, its wide scope and the size of the collection therein treated, limit more or less any special attention to a few coins; so, that it is now proposed in occasional future issues of the Bulletin, to illustrate and describe with the particularity they deserve the more striking and interesting specimens. The consideration of these "gems" alone can occupy from time to time as much of our attention as we may find it possible to devote to the subject.

FRANK SHERMAN BENSON.

THE WARD COLLECTION OF EGYPTIAN SCARABS

THROUGH the munificence of the President of the Board of Trustees, the Museum has been enriched by the gift of a very remarkable collection of about 450 Egyptian scarabs, amulets and seals. The gift is particularly fortunate by reason

of the fact that it comes quite fully described by the collector, Mr. John Ward, F. S. A. ("The Sacred Beetle: a popular treatise on Egyptian Scarabs in art and history." New York: Scribner. 1902.) The Museum already has a notable exhibition of similar objects, collected by Judge E. E. Farman, and purchased for the Museum by Mr. D. Ogden Mills a couple of years ago. The recent gift will greatly supplement the former, and go far toward making the collection as a whole one of the most notable in the world outside of Egypt itself.

Scarabs were employed for a variety of purposes: historical, religious, talismanic, and decorative. They were used as seals and as beads, and sometimes they were buried with the dead as a protection against the powers of evil which infested the nether world. As a symbol the scarab represented the re-appearance of the living from the dead. It seemed to the people of Egypt to have the power of self-reproduction without the function of sex, and hence it represented absolute life or pure being. It also came to stand for everlasting life and the resurrection of the dead.

It may be interesting to call attention to some of the scarabs in the collection which belonged to well-known kings, prominent in the history of the country. Among the earliest is one *Kha-f-ra*, a king of the Fourth Dynasty, the builder of the second pyramid of Ghizeh, and of the granite temple near the great Sphinx. His date is variously given as 3900 to 2850 B. C. Another notable personage is Unas of the Fifth Dynasty, whose pyramid presented one of the most thorough surprises to veteran Egyptian explorers. Previous to its opening no inscribed pyramid had been found, but the chambers of Unas's tomb were covered with religious texts which presented at once the oldest religious writings yet found, and also a form of the hieroglyphic writing and language more archaic in structure than any other, a form that has not yet completely surrendered its wealth to the student.

The intermediate period between the Middle Kingdom and the New, the time of the Hyksos, the so-called Shepherd Kings, is represented by some noteworthy speci-

